GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2442
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2007
VALUABLE MINERALS IN FOREST AREAS
Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reserves of valuable minerals in the forest areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to relax the rules framed under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for enabling proper exploitation of mineral resources; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (Dr. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY)

(a) to (c): As per available information, resources of minerals are located in forest areas. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is regulatory in nature and not prohibitory and forest land can be used for non-forest purposes, including exploration of mineral resources with prior approval of Government.